

1. VA statistics indicate Clermont County is underserved and offers significant potential for a much larger number of veterans to be assisted. This is the primary reason for the construction of the new Community Based Outreach Clinic (CBOC) located in Clermont County. Historically the Clermont County Veteran Service Commission (VSC) has not been highly visible but in recent years based on increased needs within our veteran community the VSC has instituted the appropriate departmental structure and resources to properly support the ongoing needs of our veterans. We must continue our outreach efforts to let the veterans and family members know who and where we are. A presence at CBOC will not only provide critical services to our veterans but provide ongoing outreach to the veteran community by having a presence at such a high visibility area.
2. In 2009 we have experienced an increased number of new VSC clients as a direct result of staffing a Veteran Service Officer only one day per week at CBOC. There is a significant need to staff on a full time basis.
3. We are presently fighting two wars and the duty to assist our younger veterans and immediate family members continues to increase. The future number of veterans returning home will depend on how the military withdrawals are implemented. Remember, many military personnel are serving more than one tour and in many cases are serving 3-4 tours that have clearly escalated the need and duty to assist them when they return home. The VSC must be prepared to fulfill their responsibilities since continuous needs are inevitable. Doing anything else would be irresponsible and disgraceful.
4. While the current wars bring unique and critical needs we cannot forget the veterans that have served honorably in past wars. We continue to see ongoing needs within the WWII, Korean, Vietnam and Gulf War Veteran Communities. While the WWII veteran community is quickly and sadly getting smaller because of those veterans passing on, the Korean and Vietnam Veterans have now become the prominent groups that require our immediate and consistent assistance. The average age of the Vietnam Veteran is approximately 60 plus years. Without question this brings along many medical and social issues that will continue to increase. The motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America says it best... "Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another"
5. With war comes a tremendous sacrifice from the warrior and the family. Clermont County has an estimated 16,000 veterans plus immediate family

members for an estimated total number of citizens of over 40,000. Supporting our veterans at all levels should always be a priority. The sacrifice of that segment of our overall community is truly unique and should be treated accordingly

6. From a financial position several key facts are important to point out.
 - a. ORC 5901 provides for ½ mil of the real estate taxes to support the budgetary requirements of the veterans as determined by the Veterans Service Commission. Today the estimated dollar amount of ½ mil equates to over \$2,500,000.
 - b. The projected VSC budget requirements for 2010 are approximately \$1,500,000. This indicates approximately \$1,000,000 of the available \$2,500,000 will be available for use in the general fund during 2010. This has been the situation over many years that have fortunately offered many millions of dollars for general fund usage. While this has been good fortune and a blessing for the many critical needs of the county in years past it's now apparent the situation regarding our veteran community has significantly changed that will require a different approach to budget strategies.
 - c. While our projected 2010 budget is \$1,500,000, it's important to point out that \$790,000 of the total budget is line item funding associated with Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) for the veterans of Clermont County. Excluding the EFA leaves a true operating budget of \$710,000.
 - d. Since many discussions throughout National, State and Local Government have centered on "stimulating the economy" I would like to point out how the Veteran Service Commission actually contributes directly to that effort. To a large degree, because of the expertise and assistance provided by our Accredited Veteran Service Officers many Clermont County Veterans are receiving monetary benefits that come back directly to them and therefore are spent primarily in Clermont County. For the calendar year 2009 this will amount to approximately \$1,000,000 of new revenue for an annual cumulative dollar amount of over \$15,000,000 each and every year. The income stream will increase as our overall service levels increases based on need.